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# Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Avard Tennyson Fairbanks

Hawaii

1944

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



# UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN THIRTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF SCULPTURE

Michigan League Building

In connection with its Thirteenth Annual Exhibition of Sculpture, the Institute of Fine Arts of the University of Michigan has much pleasure in presenting some examples of students' work done under the direction of Professor Avarit Fairbanks, J. G. Winter

PEARL BERNFELD, Brooklyn, N. Y.

TORSE  
CAROL BUNNY, Cranford, New Jersey

LYNN  
DOROTHY CUMMINGS, Ann Arbor, Mich.

VIRGO  
JEAN HEDLER, Newaygo, Mich.

ELLIS FAIRBANKS, Ann Arbor, Mich.

PELICAN  
VIRGINIA E. HEIN, Evanston, Ill.

REFLECTION  
ERMA H. HUGHES, Plymouth, Mich.

STUDY  
CAROL

HELEN LAHEY, Wichita, Kansas

HANSEL AND GERTRU  
DORIS PORTER (McLEAN), Ann Arbor, Mich.

SKETCH FOR FOUNTAIN  
ALICE D. ROELOFS, East Aurora, N. Y.

ARDEN HARVEST  
OYER SABUNCU, Istanbul, Turkey

ATATURK  
MRS. HUBBELL

JANET SINGER, New Rochelle, N. Y.

TORSE  
GUYNN SETTS, Kirkwood, Missouri

MARY  
OTHER SAMURU

DIANA THOMPSON, New York City

FLOWERMAN  
EDWARD F. WHALEN, Oneida, N. Y.

AMERICAN GODDESS, MAYAN STYLE  
ETHEL PERKY CHISHOLM, Wayne, Mich.

JAMES ADAM CHISHOLM  
EDITH HOWARD, Ann Arbor, Mich.



REFLECTION BY VIRGINIA E. HEIN

ALICE K. REISCHER, Ann Arbor, Mich.

MEDITATION  
MRS. HAROLD GALLUP, Adrian, Mich.

THE POLE VALLER  
MADONNA  
MRS. JAMES D. GRACE, Ann Arbor, Mich.

TOMMY

Studies by Former Students  
DR. SCOTT T. HOLMES, Muskegon, Mich.

RANNY  
MRS. AGNES McLEAN, Ann Arbor, Mich.

HILL-BELLY MOTHER  
LACRUE

MARIE MENRO, Ann Arbor, Mich.

GIUSTI  
ALICE PRAYER TISHER, Ann Arbor, Mich.

CHINESE WOMAN  
VANNI

Studies by  
AVARIT FAIRBANKS

LINCOLN HEAD (heroic size)

BRONZE FOR HAWAII (Working model of a heroic bronze for the Ewa Plantation School near Honolulu. Gift of a school teacher, Katherine Burke)

DR. CONOVER (Bronze bust, St. Bernard School, N. J. Gift of Rutherford Stuyvesant Pierrepont.)

ALICE MERRILL, DORNE

PORTRAIT STUDY

PROF. FELIX W. PAWLOWSKI  
PROF. HARVEY JORDAN (College of Engineering, University of Illinois)



LINCOLN BY AVARIT FAIRBANKS

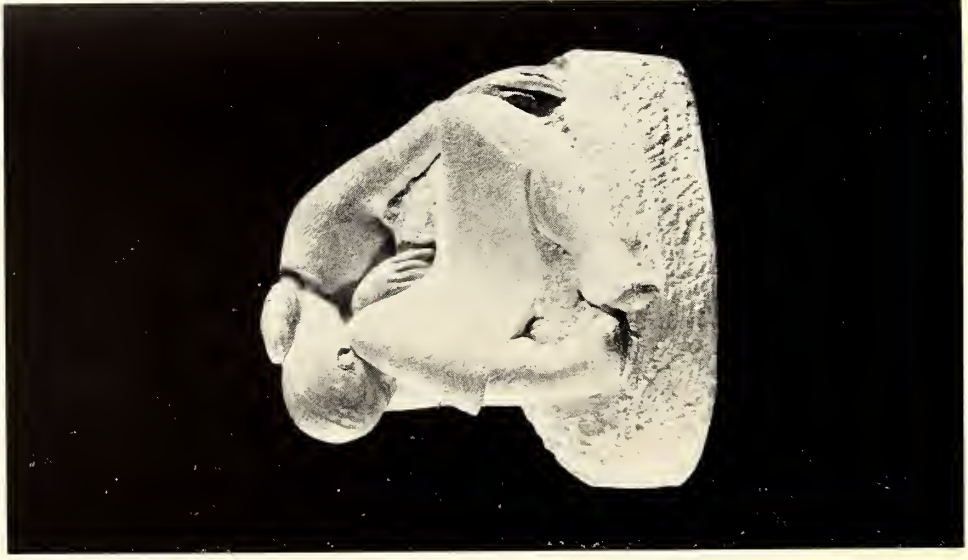


ARDEN HARVEST BY ALICE D. ROELOFS





MARY HUBBELL BY OMER SABUNCU



CHINESE WOMAN BY ALICE PRAYLER USHER



STUDY BY ERMA H. HUGHES



TOMMY BY MRS. JAMES D. GRACE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

TWELFTH ANNUAL  
EXHIBITION OF SCULPTURE

MICHIGAN LEAGUE BUILDING

In connection with its Twelfth Annual Exhibition of Sculpture, the Institute of Fine Arts of the University of Michigan has much pleasure in presenting some examples of students' work done under the direction of Professor Avard T. Fairbanks.

J. G. WINTER

CAROL J. BUNDY, Cranford, New Jersey

Purpose

SAVITEL W. BLOOM, Reading, Pennsylvania

Seck and Ye Shall Find

DOROTHY L. MUNRO, Fairfield, Iowa

Saul and David

Playmates

MARIE MUNRO, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Composition

HELEN J. NEUBERG, Detroit, Michigan

Study

DORIS L. PORTER, Grosse Pointe, Michigan

Juliana  
Study

RICHARD J. STERN, Chicago, Illinois

Composition

RUTH D. THOMPSON, New York City

Student

KATHERINE E. YOUNG, Lawton, Michigan

Newsboy

*Studies by Former Students*

ALICE ERAVER, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Torso  
Isiah

ROSEMARY MOWREY MYER, Ann Arbor,

Michigan

Girl with Grapes

ERNEST H. WAKEFIELD, Knoxville, Tennessee

My Parents

*Studies by Students in University Extension*

MRS. DOROTHY A. FOY, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Fountain Figure

MRS. AGNES McLEAN, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Judy

Myrnie

Fountain Group

DANIEL G. MEKLE, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Head

*Studies by*

AVARD FAIRBANKS

Buffalo Group (Model for colossal monument to be erected in Nebraska)

The Shark Killer (Hawana Kaiti)

Lincoln the Frontiersman (Model for nine foot statue to be erected at the Ewa Plantation School near Honolulu)



LINCOLN THE FRONTIERSMAN BY AVARD FAIRBANKS



SAUL AND DAVID BY DOROTHY L. MUNRO





PURPOSE BY CAROL J. BUNDY



MYRNIE BY MRS. AGNES MC LEAN



NEWSBOY BY KATHERINE E. YOUNG



STUDY BY DORIS L. PORTER





Alvard Fairbanks  
1940

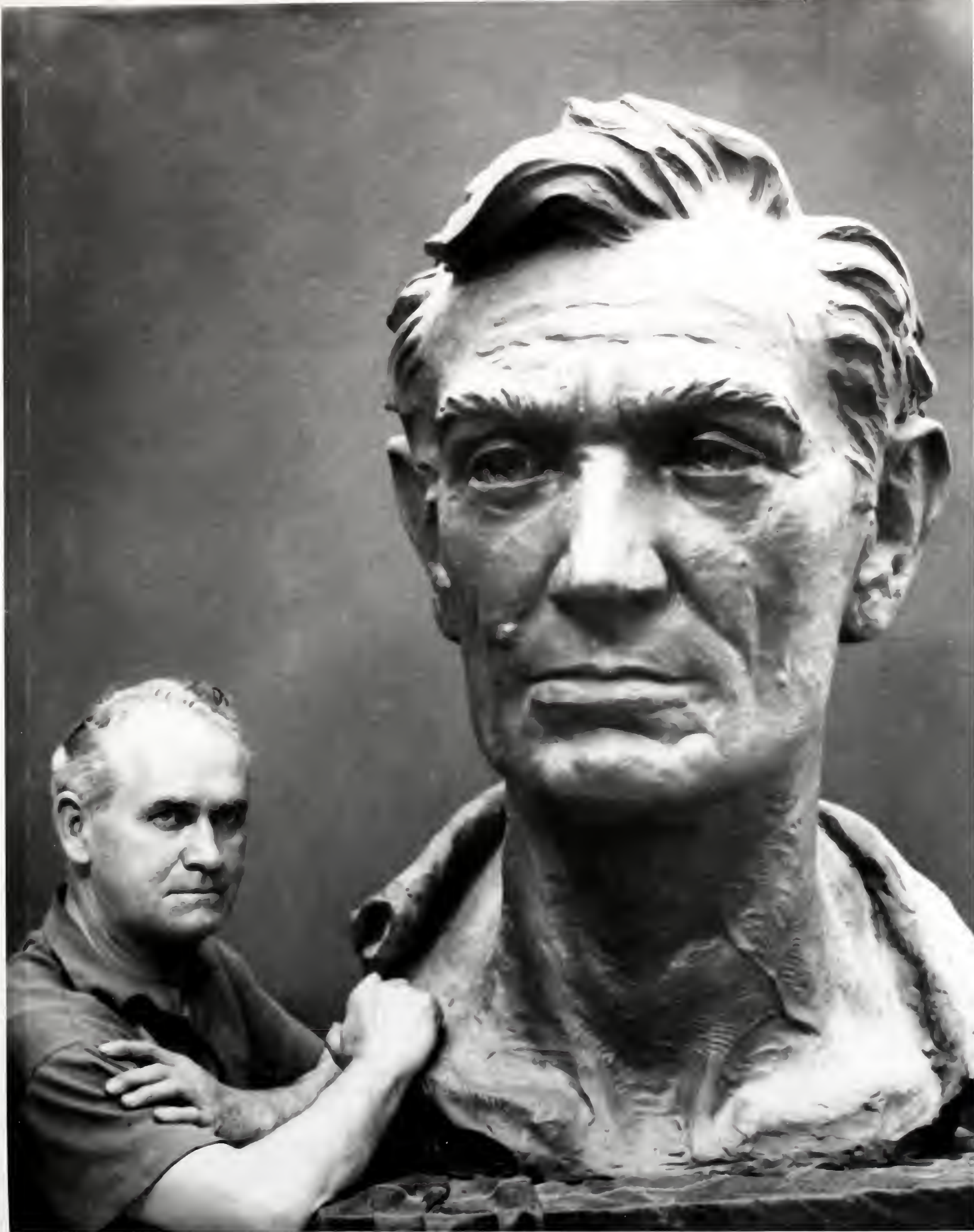
*"With malice towards none;  
With charity for all;  
With firmness in the right,  
As God gives us to see the right."*

*Abraham Lincoln  
and Inaugural Address*

*Detail for a monument to be erected at the Ewa Plantation School  
near Honolulu, Hawaii.*





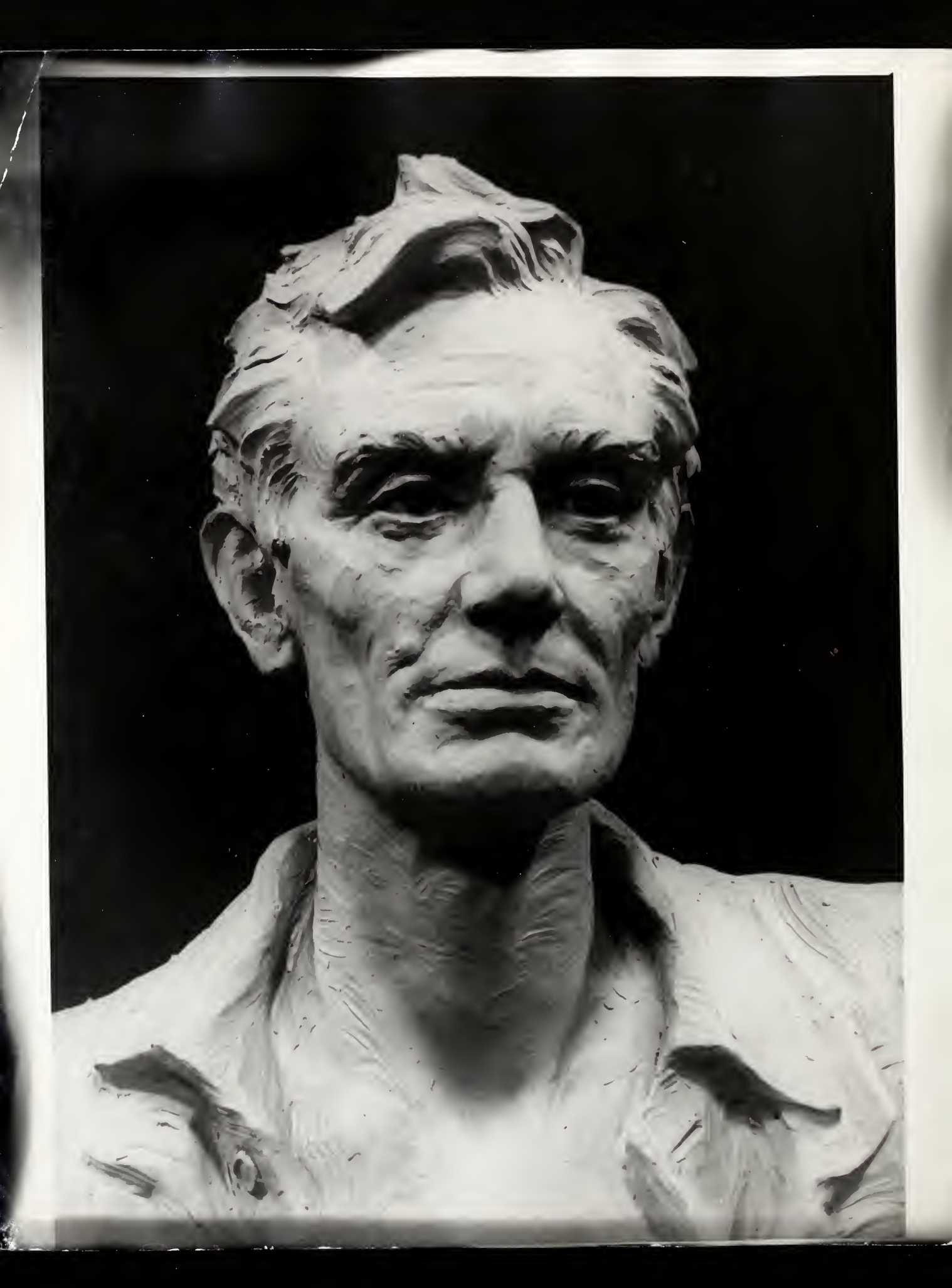


LINCOLN THE FRONTIERSMAN





COLOSSAL PORTRAIT OF LINCOLN THE FRONTIERSMAN  
IN BRONZE BY AARV T. FAIRBANKS, SCULPTOR





*Fairbanks, Prof. Avar.*

May 20, 1941

Professor Avar Fairbanks  
University Hall  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

My dear Professor Fairbanks:

The article in the Saturday Evening Post which refers to the shark hunters, may be found in the April 19 issue under the caption "I Fight Sharks" by Wallace Caswell, Jr.

You will please find attached to this letter the Lincoln poem with the verse checked which contains the lines I mentioned with respect to Lincoln being a part of the very field where he grew up.

We are having your name put on our mailing list to receive this publication, Lincoln Lore, which is sent gratuitously.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BST  
Enc.

Director

of Laidman & Co

7  
SCULPTURE STUDIOS  
Institute of Fine Arts  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nov 24 1941

Dear Mr. Warren:

The Lincoln Love came  
to me this morning and I  
notified one of them to deal with  
the subject of "A John C. Calhoun <sup>my</sup>  
I was very glad to get this for when  
I was in Washington recently I  
was told of the book to be published  
about this matter by one of  
the U.S. Senators. I now want  
to give him the material straight  
as you have it presented.

Do you have a number of  
copies available and could you  
send me as many as 100?

With best of wishes, I am

Award Fairbanks, M.F.A., Ph.D.

Sincerely

Award Fairbanks



November 27, 1941

Mr. Avarð Fairbanks  
Sculpture Studios  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Mr. Fairbanks:

We were pleased indeed to receive the fine full page account of your Lincoln statue and will be pleased to file it with the other interesting data we have with reference to "The Frontiersman."

Our Lincoln Lore is printed in such limited numbers that I fear I will not be able to send you but a very few additional copies of the one discussing the "John C. Calhoun Myth."

You will find enclosed such copies of this bulletin as we feel free to make available.

Very truly yours,

LAW:AP  
L.A. Warren  
Enc.

Director

## LINCOLN AS A YOUNG AMERICAN FRONTIERSMAN

Many statues have been made of Lincoln presenting him as a statesman, as a man who has made his attainments in life, but few have shown him as a youthful frontiersman; yet we have so often been told about his life in the early development of our American westward expansion. With these ideas in mind I have often wanted to make a youthful Lincoln, a typification of our rugged frontiersmen.

In contemplation of a statue to be placed at a school, I have thought of the students who will be viewing it, and the impressions it will make in their young lives. So to present Lincoln as a youth, stalwart and capable, when in the work of clearing the woods and of splitting the rails, I have tried characterizing him as a worker; a man capable of performing manual tasks which made him physically strong of accomplishing objectives put before him, no matter how menial they may be.

When we consider the complexes of modern civilization, if we are to endure the strains in times of a crisis, we must return to fundamentals. Lincoln's great qualities came forward in the time of a national crisis and the fundamentals of life which he experienced as a youth, fitted him to carry forward the burdens of the nation and unify a mighty people. Great responsibilities he bore through his adherence to simple and elementary principles, particularly those ideals which created and developed our democracy.

His belief in a charity for all mankind, his lack of any racial animosity, has made Lincoln one of the great figures of world civilization. As the schools in the Hawaiian Islands contain many racial types and classes of people, the appropriateness of a Lincoln statue at the Ewa Plantation School would seem extremely fitting. Such should stand forth as a symbol; of racial tolerance, an expression of a youthful frontiersman, and a worker. It should inspire hope and courage to the youth of many nationalities of lowly environments, and should make their lives and their aspirations significant. It should also present to them the ideals of a great future for the present civilization in which they live, and government that protects them.



*Kansas City Journal*  
Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1942



### Lincoln as Hawaiians Will See Him—

A powerful, alert, aggressive Abraham Lincoln is mirrored by the sculptor Avar Fairbanks, Ann Arbor, Mich. The finished statue will stand at the Ewa Plantation School near Honolulu. Fairbanks has done Lincoln as no other artist. He has given him eyes which only Lincoln could visualize far ahead of time itself the great benefits to be enjoyed through a free and united nation; eyes, too, which could visualize the trials that nation would have to face to retain its liberties.

★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★

### Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

In a cabin in the Kentucky wilderness, only a few years removed from the "dark-and-bloody-ground" era, a baby was born 133 years ago tomorrow.

He was christened Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln the boy, Lincoln the young man and Lincoln the President is a shining example of democracy at work, that same democracy which today is facing its greatest trial by fire.

Lincoln the President stood on a battlefield in that fratricidal war which threatened this nation 80 years ago. And the words he spoke there come down the years as a message to Americans of today—yes, a message to all freemen.

You know the words; you learned them in the grades. Listen to them again this day, when the news is all bad from the battlefronts of the Far East. Listen to them and take heart from those low-spoken words, lost in the dedication of a part of the Gettysburg battle ground, but today a beacon light in man's fight to be free and in that freedom mighty:



## Waits Unveiling in Hawaii



Dr. Arvard Fairbanks' heroic size statue of Lincoln as a youth, which will be dedicated in Hawaii next Saturday, Lincoln's birthday anniversary.

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# Utahn's Statue of Lincoln To Be Dedicated Feb. 12

Dr. Avard Fairbanks, native of Provo, member of the faculty of the University of Michigan's institute of fine arts and one of America's most eminent sculptors, will make another important

contribution to the world of art next Saturday when his statute, "Lincoln, the Frontiersman," is formally dedicated in Hawaii.

The heroic size statute, regarded as one of Dr. Fairbanks' finest, is eight feet tall and has occupied the sculptor's painstaking effort for the past year. It will be erected at the Ewa Plantation school on the Hawaiian islands, the gift of a school teacher who left her estate for the work.

In the words of Dr. Fairbanks, the teacher, Katherine Burke, "gave her entire life savings in the hope that people of lowly circumstances and of many races would sense the ideals of democracy and of emancipation."

Because the statute was to serve as an inspiration for youth, Dr. Fairbanks chose to depict Lincoln as a stalwart, capable, hopeful youth rather than as the mature statesman.

Dr. Fairbanks, a member of a Utah family eminent in the arts, was born in Provo in 1897 and began sculptoring at the age of 12. He displayed such talent that he received a scholarship at the Art Students' league in New York. He studied later in Paris institutes. Since 1929 he has been at the University of Michigan. His Lincoln statue is the first of a series he plans to make of great characters in American history.



# Town Talk - - By GEORGE W. STARK

**L**INCOLN the Frontiersman will be dedicated Saturday, on his birthday, at the Ewa Plantation School in Hawaii. This is the heroic statue of the Emancipator, executed by Dr. Avard Fairbanks. The implications of Saturday's ceremony are obvious. A keen interest in this area develops from the fact the great figure was executed by Dr. Fairbanks, internationally famous sculptor at the University of Michigan. It was the last bronze statue to be cast in the United States before war restrictions were placed on metal.

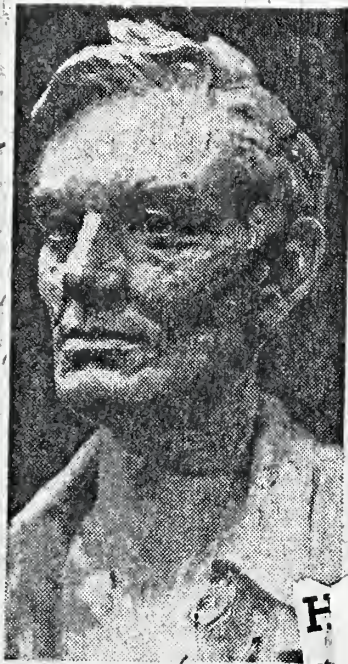
The world-wide symbolism springs from the fact that Dr. Fairbanks' Lincoln emerges on this troubled world not far from Pearl Harbor. So now he stands, his woodsman's ax in hand, strong, alert,

aggressive, purposeful. This is young Lincoln, looking forward. This, more intimately, is American Democracy, unafraid and confident, looking out on the vast Pacific area and sternly contemplating the treachery of the foe; his weapons forged and ready to his use. This is Democracy springing to arms!

"When we consider the complexities of modern civilization," said Dr. Fairbanks, in modest appraisal of his own work, "if we are to endure the strains in times of a crisis, we must return to fundamentals."

"Lincoln's great qualities came forward in the time of a national crisis and the fundamentals of life, which he experienced as a youth, fitted him to carry forward the burdens of the Nation and unify a mighty people. Great responsibilities he bore through his adherence to simple and elementary principles, particularly those ideals which created and developed our democracy."

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**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**  
Democracy on the Pacific

appropriateness of a Lincoln statue at the Ewa Plantation School would seem extremely fitting. It should stand forth as a symbol of racial tolerance, an expression of a youthful frontiersman and a worker.

"It should inspire hope and courage to the youth of many nationalities of lowly environment and should make their lives and their aspirations significant. It should also present to them the ideals of a great future for the present civilization in which they live and the Government which protects them."

How comforting to think of Lincoln in the far-flung Pacific in a time like this! Lincoln on guard! Lincoln ready for the attack!

*Detroit News 2/11/44*





Detail of the head of a heroic size bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln as a young man which was dedicated at the Ewa plantation school in Hawaii Saturday. Sculptor was Dr. Avard Fairbanks, teacher of sculpture at the University of Oregon from 1920 to 1927.

## Lincoln Statue Given School

Work Sculptured  
By ex-U. O. Savant

An heroic statue of Abraham Lincoln, sculptured by Dr. Avard Fairbanks, teacher of sculpture at the University of Oregon from 1920 to 1927, was dedicated at the Ewa Plantation school in Hawaii Saturday, the anniversary of the famous president's birthday.

The statute, eight feet tall on a one-foot base, is of Lincoln as a young rail-splitter, ax in hand.

"In contemplation of a statue to be placed at a school," Fairbanks said, "I have thought of the students who will be viewing it and the impressions it will make in their young lives. So to present Lincoln as a youth, stalwart and capable, when in the work of clearing the woods and of splitting the rails. I have tried characterizing him as a worker; a man capable of performing manual tasks which made him physically strong of accomplishing objectives put before him, no matter how menial they may be."

### Other Works Listed

The statue was the last of the heroic size bronzes to be cast before the government conservation order prohibiting the use of copper for civilian purposes went into effect. The base for the monument was furnished by the Blaesing Granite company of Portland. It is of Minnesota rainbow granite.

Other works of Dr. Fairbanks are the "Ninety-first Division Memorial" at Fort Lewis, Wash.; a bust of Dean G. Carl Huber of the University of Michigan; the "Holy Sacrament," at St. Mary's cathedral, Eugene; "Winter Quarters," at Omaha, Neb., and "Rain," which was selected among the works of America's greatest sculptors for the Brookgreen gardens in South Carolina.



# s the Guiding Sp





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Lincoln Insurance Co  
Fort Wayne  
Indiana



LINCOLN, THE FRONTIERSMAN  
BY AVARD FAIRBANKS  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN



# Ewa Children Will Honor Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln of Springfield, Ill., never came to the Sandwich Islands, and it's doubtful if he ever heard of a lei.

He will be honored, nonetheless, in a unique lei ceremony Feb. 12 at Ewa school, combining Island tradition with reverence for the Great Emancipator.

At 9 a.m. that day, the bronze statue of Lincoln the Frontiersman on the lawn of the school will be draped with 76 leis woven by the children.

Most of these will be of plumeria and bougainvillea. But one, presented by 10-year-old Stacey Sunada, will be of shiny Lincoln pennies, wrapped in cellophane and tied with red and blue ribbon.

Taking part in the ceremony will be Mrs. Abbie Lincoln Hanson, part-Hawaiian relative of Abraham Lincoln and a third grade teacher at Ewa school. Her father was Lyman Putnam Lincoln, native of Boston, who was a distant cousin of the 16th President.

The statue itself is of interest to visitors, who are welcome to attend the lei festivities.

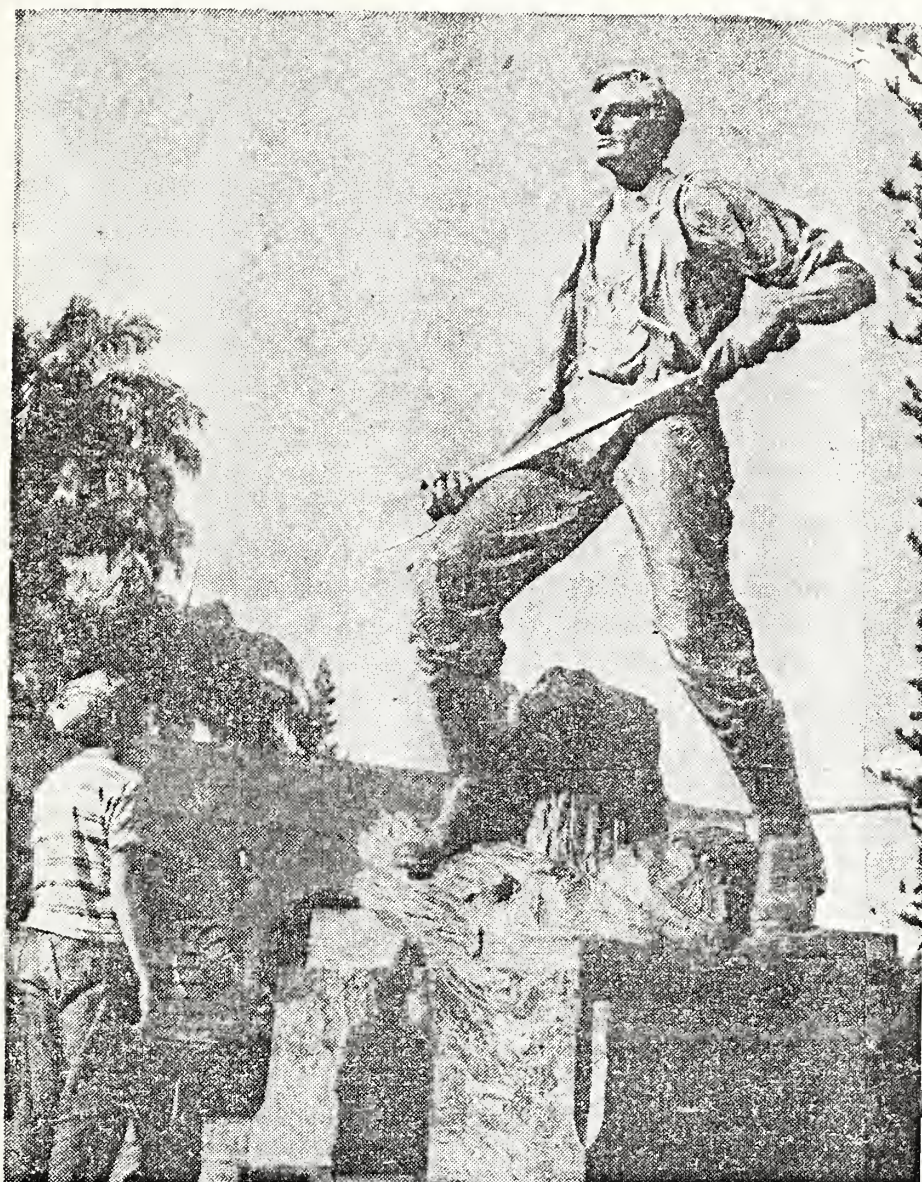
Considered one of the finest Lincoln statues in the world, it was the gift of the late Katherine McFutosh Burke, who was principal of Ewa school.

A pioneer herself in the field of education in Hawaii, Mrs. Burke was a strong admirer of Lincoln. She wanted to awaken in her pupils at Ewa a feeling of "closeness" to the great American.

She left a sum of \$8,000, saved from her earnings over the years, and instructed the administrators of her will to commission a tall Lincoln statue and place it on the school grounds.

In 1939 the task of carrying out the will began, but it soon was discovered that a statue of the specified height would cost \$25,000. Letters were sent to leading sculptors around the world, but none could do anything for the sum available.

Finally, just as it appeared the children of Ewa would never get "their Lincoln," one of the great sculptors of America, Dr. Avard Fairbanks, accepted the commission. He agreed to work for practically no recompense. Most of the \$8,000 went for bronze, clay, marble and freight.



Hawaii Visitors Bureau

*Ewa School children stand beside the noted Avard Fairbanks statue of Lincoln the Frontiersman on the lawn of their school.*

In spite of war delays and shipping problems, the completed statue of Lincoln the Frontiersman finally reached the green lawn of Ewa school, shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack.

Now, beside the statue on Lincoln's birthday, visitors can hear Islanders of many different racial backgrounds reciting the Gettysburg Address or singing songs of the Civil War.

When the lei-giving begins, faces of all—from the tiniest kindergarten tot to the tallest ninth grader—are a revelation to Hawaii newcomers.

Though features may be Hawaiian, Japanese or Filipino, they glow with

identical pride in their American heritage. And they proclaim a kinship with Abraham Lincoln, whose statue stands right in their own front yard.

 If a tempting appearance when canned. Make delicious preserves, sweet pickles. Fine for pies or jelly. Easy to grow.





1/13/57

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# LINCOLN

## *the Frontiersman*

Katherine Burke was a country school teacher for whom each westward movement of the American frontier created a new mission. Her career began in Kansas in the 1880s, then took her to Arizona, Nevada and Alaska. Finally, she crossed the Pacific to bring American principles to youthful Hawaiians.

Katherine Burke's guiding spirit was Abraham Lincoln in whom she saw the American ideal epitomized. When she died in 1938, she left \$8,000 for a tall statue of Lincoln to be placed on the lawn of her last school at Ewa, a sugar refinery town on the island of Oahu.

Executors of her estate soon found that \$8,000 fell far short of the amount necessary for such a statue. Letters went to leading sculptors around the world with no response until Dr. Avard Fairbanks, a noted American sculptor accepted the commission. With virtually no payment beyond material costs, Dr. Fairbanks created one of the great artistic portrayals of the Emancipator in "Lincoln the Frontiersman."

Each February 12, and particularly on this 150th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, black-eyed children of half a dozen Pacific races honor his memory with songs, bright flower leis and reading of the Gettysburg address. One wonders what Lincoln might have thought of this unique observance of his birthday on a bright February day in Hawaii. □

Mainliner Feb. 1959

(Magazine for United Air Lines Guests)







Advertiser Photo by Jerry Y. Chong

**BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE**—Ewa Elementary and Intermediate School yesterday celebrated Lincoln's birthday with their annual program centered around the school statue of Honest Abe. The program was climaxed with a lei-draping of the statue by representatives of all homerooms.



which have developed, have provided numerous themes for sculptural treatment. He has been portrayed as bearded and beardless; sitting, standing, afoot and on horseback; boy; youth; student; emigrant; railsplitter, soldier, jury-lawyer; man of sorrows; commander-in-chief; prophet; statesman; savior; orator; neighbor; husband; father; and friend of children. The two statues here in Topeka well portray the man beset by the woes of a divided nation.

This paper is concerned with one Lincoln statue in a far away place, not too well known, provided by a woman of lesser reknown and acquaintance to the world and even to her native state.

The story commences with the birth of Katherine McIntosh Burke in Leavenworth, Kansas, on February 22, 1861, eleven days before Mr. Lincoln's first inauguration. Mrs. Burke's parents had come to Kansas from Kentucky. Virtually nothing has been recorded about her early life. She attended school at the State Teachers College at Emporia, Kansas, and at the University of California, after which she began a long career as a school teacher. She taught first in the elementary schools at Oskaloosa, Kansas, and later in the high school. Then she moved westward, teaching successively in Arizona, Nevada and eventually four years in Wrangel, Alaska, where she acted as both teacher and principal.

That she had pioneer blood in her veins and was imbued with the frontier

spirit is evidenced by the fact she then journeyed to the newly acquired territory of Hawaii where there was a teaching job to do.

First she taught six years in classrooms on the island of Kauai. Then she went to the island of Oahu where she was to spend the final years of her career as teacher and school administrator.

On Oahu she was employed at the Ewa school, located a short distance west of Pearl Harbor. This school was one originally known as a plantation school, being established as an English language training center for the children of workers employed by a large plantation company. The school eventually grew into a fairly large institution with more than twenty classrooms, many cottages and a large open auditorium. It became noted for its Smith-Hughes program and vocational projects. When Mrs. Burke became principal at Ewa school in 1919 it had 520 pupils enrolled. She remained as a greatly loved and respected teacher and administrator until 1929 when the Territorial Department of Public Instruction granted her a pension. Thereafter she traveled widely until her illness and death.

During the latter part of her life her thoughts turned to disposition of her modest estate and she executed a will. Upon her death, which occurred at the Mayo Clinic on December 27, 1938, it was learned that her will contained a bequest of \$8,000 to be used "to purchase and erect a statue of Abraham Lincoln at Ewa School in the



District of Ewa, Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii". She named three persons as trustees to carry out this commission: The superintendent of public instruction of the territory, the manager of Ewa plantation and a long-time friend from Kauai.

Immediately the trustees began investigating the obligation of their trust and they learned that \$8,000 would scarcely pay the cost of material and transportation to Hawaii of a statue of heroic proportions. Accordingly they thought they might fulfill the spirit of Mrs. Burke's bequest by substituting at the school a Lincoln Room which would contain Lincoln books, a bust of Lincoln and other available items of Lincolniana. They applied to the probate court for permission to do this but the court said No! -- the will stated that a statue be placed on Ewa campus and a statue it had to be.

The trustees then addressed letters to leading sculptors stating the problem and the amount of money available. The minimum cost of a large statue at this time (1939) was generally believed to be in the neighborhood of \$20,000 or \$25,000.

Our story now focuses upon Dr. Avarð Fairbanks, then Associate Professor of Sculpture at the University of Michigan. Born in Provo, Utah, he early evinced talent as a sculptor and while only thirteen years of age had commenced the study of that art under the tutelage of a series of eminent sculptors. He eventually produced many highly acclaimed works including several depicting Western scenes. Professor Fairbanks had visited Hawaii four times and had made a number of studies of Hawaiian life. He had been married in Honolulu in 1918. During the summer of 1939

he was giving art courses in the summer sessions at the University of Hawaii and it was only natural that the trustees of Mrs. Burke's estate should address an inquiry to him. Dr. Fairbanks was interested and after much thought and study and many sketches developed a theme. First he made a twelve inch model, then one of thirty inches and finally one of clay nine feet in height.

Dr. Fairbanks called his work "Lincoln the Frontiersman". This Lincoln portrays a brawny young fellow holding an axe, a symbol of the American frontiersman, and one with which Lincoln had first-hand experience and which he once termed: "That most useful instrument". Lincoln's face has marks of mature manhood and the whole effect is that of a strong personality. He stands with his axe in a brief moment of inaction as he looks up from his wood-chopping. One critic said "the listless, gawky, sleepy-eyed Lincoln" is gone and we have instead a Lincoln "powerful, alert, aggressive" with "eyes through which only Lincoln could visualize far ahead of time itself the great benefits which could be enjoyed through a free and united nation".

How Professor Fairbanks developed this particular concept for a statue of Lincoln is best described in his own words:

"My first impression was to make a statue of Lincoln with his frock coat as the President of the United States. The long lines of the trousers and the coat seemed rather appealing from just the standpoint of the lines. I pondered over this for some time but did not make sketches.



"Another thought was Lincoln with a shawl; but this would never do for the semi-tropical climate of Hawaii. In considering the responsibility before me of doing a work worthy of the trust placed in me I thought of the hopes of the school teacher and her eager desires to inspire the students. I thought of the youthful minds of the students of the school and my responsibility to them to characterize Abraham Lincoln truthfully.

"To make him as a youth seemed to gain the attention of my thoughts. Many times I thought of the things of Lincoln's youth which stood out in my mind. He was strong and he could work well. He worked with a purpose and he cleared the fields and forests for new growth and new developments. As he developed strong in body he also was developing in strength of character and mind. He had to cut his way through . . . he was a frontiersman.

"Shortly thereafter I was called West to the funeral of my father. While still at his farm home, and in deep sorrow, for a bit of relaxation, I took an axe and went into a field to clear away some old trees and stumps. As I worked I thought of the Lincoln statue. Lincoln was a man of sorrows, and he was a man of hopes; and as a youth he had worked with an axe. And it was there that the inspiration of Lincoln as a youthful frontiersman, with axe in hand, came to me. Realizing that I had found something worthwhile, I returned to Ann Arbor and set about making sketches of the idea, first on paper and then in small bits of clay. . . ."

Upon viewing the clay model executed by Dr. Fairbanks the trustees under Mrs. Burke's will commissioned him to deliver the statue for the stipulated amount. Work commenced and the final casting in bronze was done just before the government's prohibition of the use of copper for non-war purposes. Completed shortly after the bombing at Pearl Harbor the statue was to rest in the docks at San Francisco for nearly two years before it could be shipped to Hawaii because of the priority given to the shipment of food and war materiels.

Finally in 1943 the bronze figure was shipped to Honolulu and a few months later a block of rainbow granite for a five-foot pedestal arrived. The unveiling at Ewa campus occurred on February 12, 1944, with a large gathering of dignitaries and school children with their families and friends on hand for an appropriate program with the territorial governor as the main speaker. *program*

Thus, with the unveiling of the statue, was the will of a Kansas school teacher probated. ✓

Dr. Fairbanks is not listed among those present for the ceremony but this was not to be the end of his association with Lincoln statuary. In 1954 he did a magnificent bronze statue of Lincoln which stands at one of the entrances to New Salem Park, a gift to Illinois from the Sons of Utah Pioneers. This work shows the still youthful Lincoln with axe in one hand and lawbook in the other, depicting him at the period in his life when he was discarding the axe of the frontiersman and turning to a career in the law.



In 1959 Avard Fairbanks did another large bronze of Lincoln located in Lincoln Circle, Berwyn, Illinois, a Chicago suburb. This commission was done on behalf of a savings and loan institution named after Mr. Lincoln. Called "Lincoln The Friendly Neighbor" it portrays a mature Lincoln walking between a boy and a girl. The affection in the group is manifest. ✓

Since the unveiling of the Fairbanks' work at Ewa school in 1944 the statue has been a focal point of campus life at that institution. Annually a program is held there on Lincoln's birthday in which many dignitaries have participated. Either the Royal Hawaiian band or a military band has been present. It goes without saying that on these occasions Lincoln is heavily draped with the traditional flower leis brought by the school children. ✓ In recent years a lei of fifty Lincoln pennies has appeared. A prize is given for the best essay on Lincoln.

An interesting sidelight is that in 1959 N.B.C. staged a documentary film revolving around the statue as a part of a statehood promotion project.

Just what was it that induced a Kansas-born woman to erect a statue of Abraham Lincoln on the farway isle of Oahu? One of her friends put it simply: "It was her belief such a work would contribute greatly to the formation of idealism in the minds of young people attending the school". Mrs. Burke had been a teacher of American history in which course she always put emphasis on the life and character of Abraham

Lincoln. She was dealing with youngsters of a racial mix whom she loved. To her Abraham Lincoln typified the spirit of racial tolerance "with malice toward none and charity for all" and his life exemplified the opportunity of the common man to aspire to great works. Mention has been made of the spirit that moved her on to new frontiers and new challenges. She wanted something as a perpetual challenge and inspiration to the youth of the United States' newest frontier. Perhaps her interest in Lincoln may have been sparked by the fact that Lincoln had visited her native city of Leavenworth, Kansas, just a little more than a year before her birth and had remained there several days during which he had made three speeches; doubtless as a young and impressionable girl she had heard first-hand accounts of that visit and what Mr. Lincoln had to say. Perhaps it was then that her admiration and reverence for Lincoln began which culminated in the unusual bequest in her will.

Postscript: Mrs. Burke's last wishes, made known in a note handed to a nurse shortly before her death, included a request that her ashes be buried in Lihue cemetery on her beloved island of Kauai. This request was carried out.



## Bibliography

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The Lincoln Herald, June, 1944.





# It's A Small World



We Dedicate Our  
38th ANNUAL  
LINCOLN DAY PROGRAM  
in Memory of Mrs. Lillian Tokunaga

EWA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

February 12, 1981

9:00 A.M.

MASTERS OF CEREMONY

Regina Llanto	Grade 5
Patricio Fletcherero	Grade 5
Catharine dela Cruz	Grade 4
Jodene Tsutsui	Grade 6
Michael Requibil	Grade 4
Aaron Yacapa	Grade 6
Elaine Atchazo	Grade 4
Jared Bailon	Grade 5
Josephine dela Cruz	Grade 5

SONG LEADERS

Nenita Ambrocio	Grade 6
Lynn Dacuyang	Grade 5
Josephine dela Cruz	Grade 5



P L E A S E   K O K U A .

We hope all of you will enjoy our program.  
To be sure you do, we would like to ask for your  
cooperation. To those who plan to take pictures,  
we kindly ask that you do not stand in front of  
anyone nor stand in the aisles. You may take  
pictures from your seats during the program.  
You may also take pictures after the program.

Thank you for your assistance

ch

AMERICA

My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died!  
Land of the Pilgrims' pride,  
From ev'ry mountain side,  
Let freedom ring!

HAWAII PONOI

Hawaii Ponoi Nana I koumou  
Kalani Alii Ke Alii,  
Makua lani e Kamehameha e  
Hakau a e pale Me ka i he

Makua lani e Kamehameha e  
Hakau a e pale Me ka i he



BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of  
wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible  
swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.

REFRAIN: Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
His truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the  
sea,  
With the glory in His bosom that transfigures you and  
me,  
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men  
free,  
While God is marching on.

REFRAIN: Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
While God is marching on.

and

and

Mary

dance

and

and

and

as

church

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

It's a world of laughter, a world of tears;  
It's a world of hopes and a world of fears.  
There's so much that we share that it's  
time we're aware  
It's a small world after all.

CHORUS

It's a small world after all,  
It's a small world after all.  
It's a small world after all,  
it's a small world after all.

There is just one moon and one golden sun  
And a smile means friendship to every one.  
Though the mountains divide and the  
oceans are wide,  
It's a small world after all.

CHORUS

It's a small world after all,  
It's a small world after all.  
It's a small world after all,  
it's a small world after all.



### PROGRAM

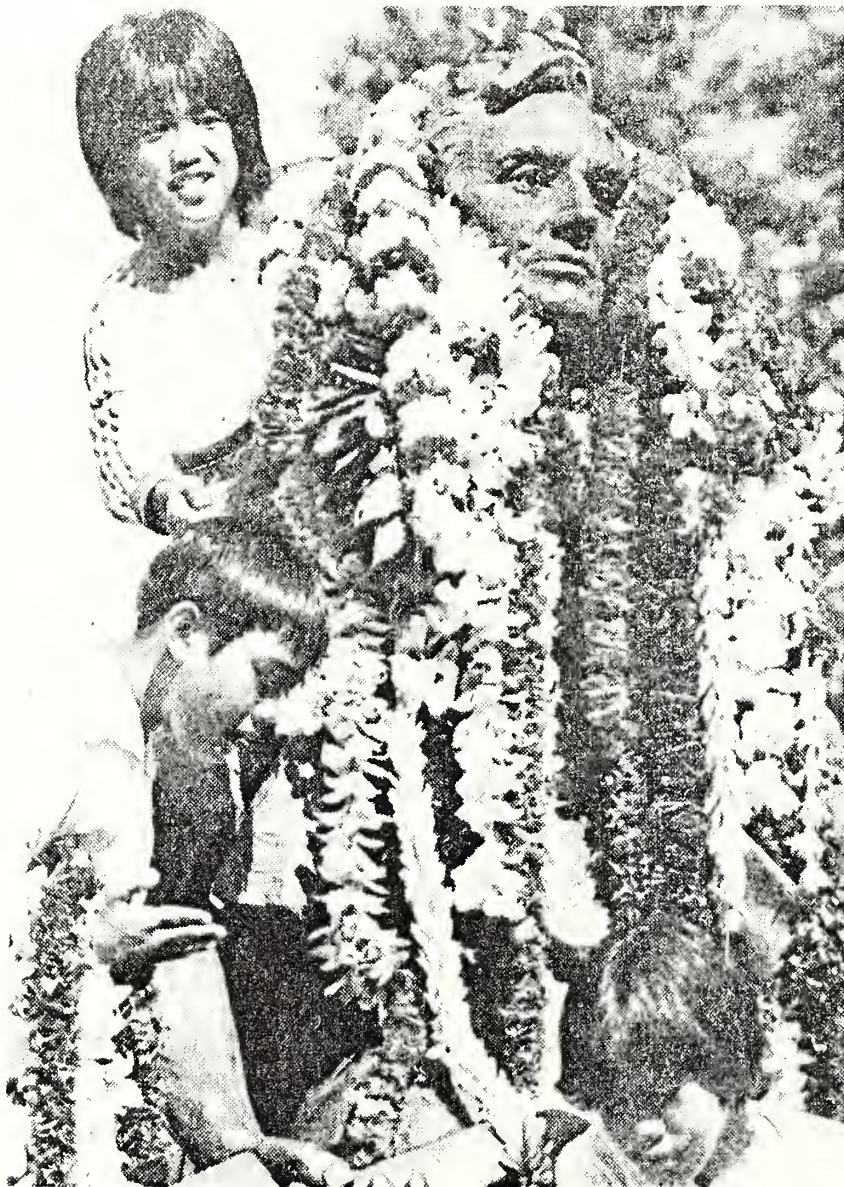
Prelude.....Royal Hawaiian Band  
Invocation.....Reverend Hidemi Tsutsui  
Ewa Community Church  
Raising of the Flag.....Flag Raisers  
Pledge of Allegiance.....Audience  
"America".....Audience; Royal Hawaiian Band  
Penny Lei  
History of Our Statue.....Jodene Tsutsui, *Haron yacopin*  
"Battle Hymn of the Republic"....Audience; Royal Hawaiian Band  
In Memoriam.....Michael Esquibill  
"Music, Music, Music".....Ewa Preschool Students  
"Tanko Bushi".....Kindergarten  
"Mansung Biday"....~~Japan~~.....Grade 1  
"Suay Sia Fa" and a Lion Dance...Grade 3 *Philippine*  
"Hoki Hoki".....Grade 2 *China*  
"Greensleeves".....Grade 6 *New Zealand (Merry)*  
"Red Wing".....~~Grade 5~~ *Carl B. Britten*  
"Hawaiian Lullaby".....Grade 4 *U.S. (Agave dance)*  
"It's a Small World".....Audience; Royal Hawaiian Band  
Draping of the Statue  
"For You a Lei".....Students; Royal Hawaiian Band  
"Hawaii Pono!".....Audience; Royal Hawaiian Band  
Benediction.....Reverend Father Michael Adams  
Ewa Immaculate Conception Church  
Postlude.....Royal Hawaiian Band











**ALOHA ABE**—Aldwin Pita arranges the many leis draped on the eight-foot statue of Abraham Lincoln with the help of two of his schoolmates during the 38th annual program commemorating Lincoln's birthday at Ewa Elementary School yesterday. —Star-Bulletin Photo by Craig T. Kojima.





Advertiser photo

### *Lincoln in leis*

If Honest Abe ever visited Hawaii, this might be what he would look like as he fought his way, complete with ax, through throngs at the airport. The Rail Splitter was honored yesterday by students at Ewa Elementary School in their 38th annual Lincoln Day Program. Students rally around the statue in honor of Abe's birthday, which is Feb. 12.

DR. FRANK O. GLADDING  
Osteopathic Physician  
225 QUEEN ST., 24-F  
HONOLULU, HI 96813  
PHONE: 521-7618

March 7, 1981

Mrs. Mary Jane Hubler  
Assistant to Dr. Neely, Jr.  
THE LOUIS A. WARREN  
LINCOLN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM  
1300 South Clinton Street  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Friend:

I have received another treasure pack from you, thank you very much. The prints of the Wilson portrait add to my growing file of portrait prints. This one is discussed by Robert Lincoln and Mr. Markens in A PORTRAIT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN of the Chicago Historical Society. A footnote in this book refers to "FIFTY CONTEMPORARY PORTRAIT PAINTERS" of Lincoln Lore, dated June 5th, 1944. Thanks to your information I am on the track of ROBERT'S LIFE. Thanks also to your predecessor I know of BULLARD'S book.

The reason for the inclosed clipping is not for the cartoon (which is quite pertinent) but rather for the photo of the Kennedys looking at the FACES OF LINCOLN. Their interest in the first Republican is interesting.

*7-  
William  
Research*

It is hard to believe that one so young could have done as Vinnie Ream did. Thanks for the review of her experience.

Ever since my story of the AVARD FAIRBANKS statue, of 1977, I have intended to go out and witness the school's ceremony on Lincoln's birthday. This year the intent crystalized and out we went. It was a delightful experience. It was the 28th annual observance they had demonstrated at this statue on Lincoln's birthday. There were about three hundred folk there, the largest gathering in the memory of one whom we met and who had attended the memorial for a number of years.

Classed from pre-school, kindergarten, through the sixth grade each had an ethnic dance to present to appropriate taped music. They demonstrated Philippine, Japanese, Chinese, Hawaiian, Maori, etc. When they got to the U.S.A. they did a square dance to Red Wing with a voice





**EXCLUSIVE — THE LAST FAMILY PHOTO:** Picture taken December 21 when Ted and Joan invited The ENQUIRER to conduct a photo session at their McLean, Va., home. The picture was supposed to show a loving family — but the divorce announcement came only a month later.

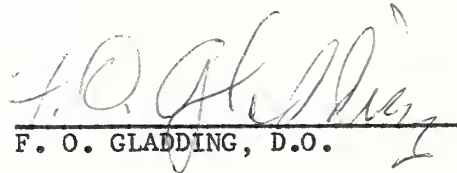
page 2 - Hubler - 3-7-81

on the recording calling the figures of the dance. The Royal Hawaiian Band was on hand to provide "live" music.

As the statue is nine feet tall and the base five feet, a big ladder was placed in back so that the lad at the top could reach the head as others clinging to the statue relayed the leis up to him. It was really quite an operation. Note the yellow ribbon in celebration of the hostages' release.

To be sure, it was but a tiny drop-in-the-bucket of Lincoln observances across the country, but it was a pretty good splash in the local waters. Locally it warranted a front-page photo in each of the papers as well as T-V coverage. So, I'm glad to be able to send something of interest which you may not otherwise receive. I have received so much of deep interest and genuine value from you folk.

Gratefully yours,

  
F. O. GLADDING, D.O.

FOG:pg

Enclosures

PS: Picture of State Capitol and Palace on outside of envelope is taken from our apartment.



DR. FRANK O. GLADDING  
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225 QUEEN ST., 24-F  
HONOLULU, HI 96813  
PHONE: 521-7618

August 21, 1981

Mrs. Mary Jane Hubler  
Assistant to Dr. Neely  
THE LOUIS A. WARREN LINCOLN  
LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

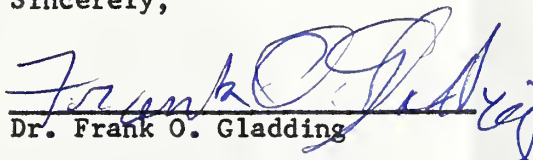
Dear Friend:

I regret to say that what does seem obvious to us hasn't occurred to any of the usual picture sources - a color photo of the Avarad Fairbank's lei draping ceremony of Lincoln on his birthday. The best I can do are the colored photos enclosed - which were taken at the last ceremony. All the photos available through the local media are black and white.

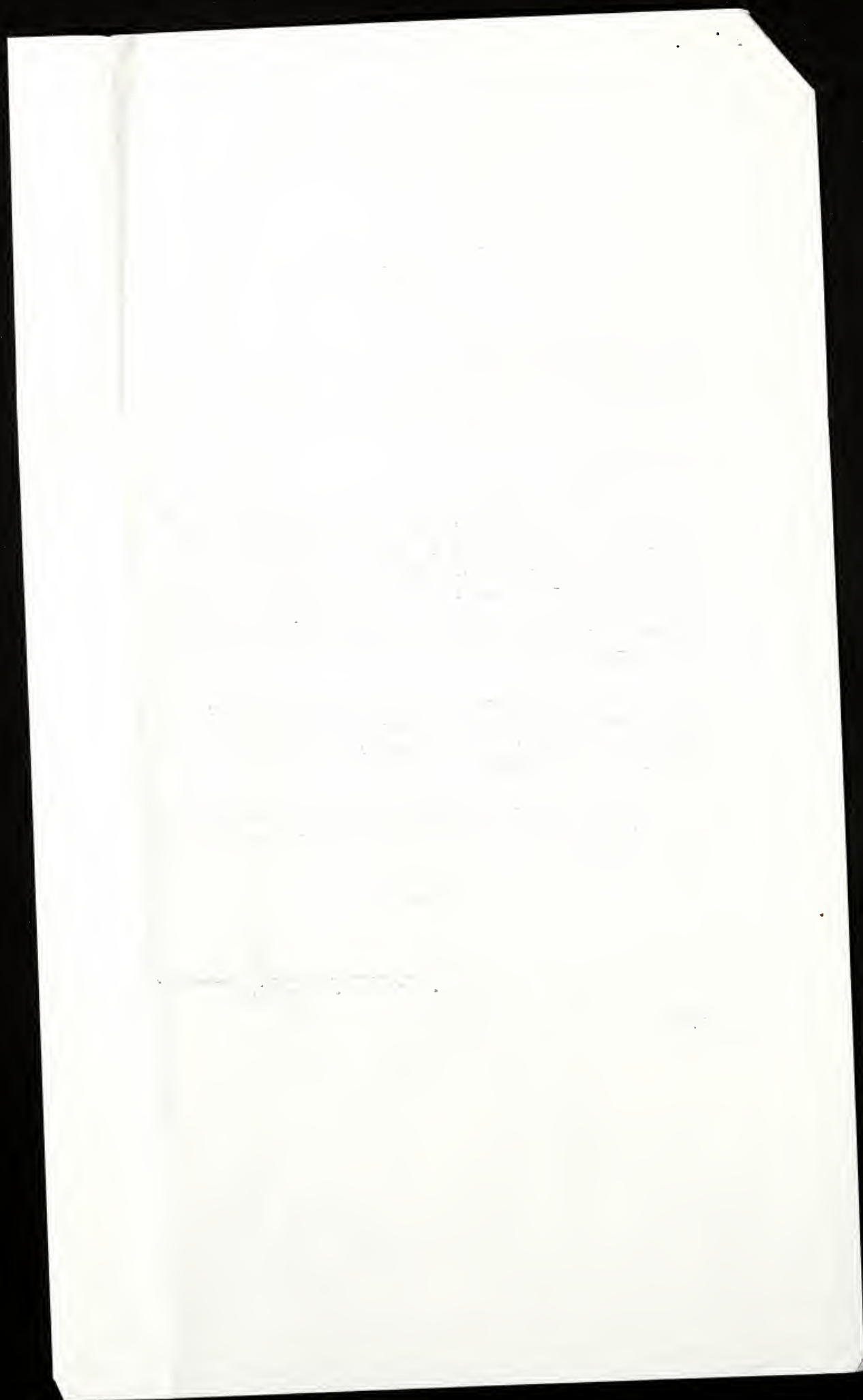
This gives me the idea of attempting to prompt one of the local editors to make colored pictures available at the time of the next Lincoln Birthday celebration.

With all you have done for me I'm sorry that I couldn't fulfill your request any more completely than I have.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Frank O. Gladding

FOG:pg





*The Lincoln Landscape*  
Sculptural Commemorations  
of Abraham Lincoln by  
Avard T. Fairbanks

---

EUGENE FAIRBANKS

Illinois residents proclaim their state to be the Land of Lincoln. The 2003 commemorative quarter for Illinois features an image of a young Abraham Lincoln holding a law book in the right hand while laying aside an ax with the other hand. The image is based on a famous statue that stands outside the visitor center at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site near Petersburg, twenty miles northwest of the state capital. The statue is the creation of sculptor-historian Avard T. Fairbanks. It is one of a dozen important Lincoln-themed sculptures that Fairbanks completed during his productive career. Fairbanks had an affinity for Lincoln. Through his sculptures he created a commemorative Lincoln landscape that extends beyond the prairies of Illinois and the pillared buildings of the nation's capital.<sup>1</sup>

In his youth, Fairbanks lived for two years on the frontier with his family in a one-room lean-to cabin while homesteading on the prairie of Alberta, Canada. He lost his mother in childhood, as did Lincoln, and missed her guiding influence. "Because I am of pioneer descent and have experienced the frontier during my own childhood," he wrote, "the traditions of Lincoln have been very much a part of my early training." He related to the youthful rough-hewn frontier Lincoln who dreamed of improving conditions for himself and others. As the years passed, Fairbanks became professionally preoccupied with heavy teaching schedules, demonstration lectures, and com-

1. The source of all information and quoted material in this article, unless otherwise indicated, comes from the author's book, *Abraham Lincoln Sculpture Created by Avard T. Fairbanks* (Bellingham, Wash.: Fairbanks Art and Books, 2002).

missions for portraits and fantasy statuary.<sup>2</sup> Still, the desire to create a Lincoln-themed sculpture lingered. Finally, after several decades, an opportunity unexpectedly arose.

**Lincoln the Frontiersman, Ewa Plantation School,  
Ewa, Hawaii. Dedicated February 12, 1944**

While teaching summer school at the University of Hawaii in 1939, this forty-two-year-old professor of fine arts came to the attention of a committee seeking a sculptor to create a Lincoln statue for the Ewa Plantation school pursuant to a bequest by a former teacher and principal, Katherine Burke. Burke's estate was small. Other sculptors had declined the project, as the pay was insufficient. But when an unsolicited invitation came to Fairbanks in spring 1940 after he had returned to his academic post at the University of Michigan, he was intrigued by the opportunity despite the tight budget. How, he wondered, could an appropriate statue of Lincoln be created for a tropical island paradise?

One day in June, after university classes were over, he received a call that his ailing father was dying. He hurried to his father's home but was too late. While awaiting the funeral, he pondered the Lincoln statue. "My first impression was to make a statue of Lincoln in his

2. Avard Tennyson Fairbanks was born in March 1897, the tenth of eleven children. As a boy he was awarded scholarships to study at the Art Students League in New York City, and he displayed his sculpture in the National Academy of Design when he was only fourteen years old. Next he studied in Paris at several premier art academies. But the outbreak of World War I interrupted his studies, and he returned to his home in Salt Lake City to complete high school. At age nineteen he traveled to the Hawaiian Island of Oahu to work on the Latter-day Saint Temple at Laie, creating more than a hundred figures on four friezes placed at the temple cornices. He returned home to attend the University of Utah and in 1920 accepted a position to teach sculpture at the University of Oregon. In 1924 he earned a degree at Yale University and continued teaching at Oregon until 1927, when he was awarded a Guggenheim fellowship that permitted him to return to Europe for further study. He returned to the U.S. in 1928 and taught at the Seattle Institute of Art and earned a master's degree at the University of Washington in 1929. That same year he joined the faculty at the University of Michigan and helped to establish its Institute of Fine Arts. While teaching at Michigan during the 1930s he earned master's and doctorate degrees in anatomy from the university's medical school. In 1947 Fairbanks was appointed Dean at the University of Utah and was charged with organizing a College of Fine Arts at that institution. In 1965 he went to the University of North Dakota to close out his academic career as Special Consultant in Fine Arts and Resident Sculptor for two years. In retirement he continued a busy and productive schedule creating commissioned works of art until the very end of his life in January 1987.

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frock coat as the President of the United States," he later recalled. "The long lines of the trousers and the coat seemed rather appealing from just the standpoint of the lines." Another thought was Lincoln with a shawl, but Fairbanks decided that would never do for the semitropical climate of Hawaii. Then he considered the hopes of the schoolteacher benefactor, Katherine Burke, and her desire to inspire students. "To make him as a youth seemed to gain the attention of my thoughts," he said.

One day while still in mourning at his father's farm, Fairbanks took an ax and went into the field to clear some old trees and stumps. As he worked, he thought of the Lincoln statue. As a youth Lincoln had used an ax. He had experienced sorrows and hopes. He was strong and he could work well. He worked with a purpose, and he cleared the fields and forests for new growth and new developments. As he developed strong in body, he also was developing strength in character and mind. He had to cut his way through. . . . He was a *frontiersman*! "It was there," Fairbanks later said, "that the inspiration of Lincoln as a youthful frontiersman, with an ax in hand, came to me."

Fairbanks returned to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and set about making sketches of the idea, first on paper and then in small bits of clay. He submitted the sketches to the committee in Hawaii. He also presented a demonstration lecture to the Detroit Lincoln Group, the nearest Lincoln association, to seek their input. During a discussion of sculpture details and historical background, he molded a two-foot-tall statuette. The concept of a young Lincoln, a figure in action, for a school in a relatively young territory in the Pacific, a frontier, was received with enthusiasm.<sup>3</sup> There were many portrayals of Abraham Lincoln, but few if any depicted him as a frontiersman, a neglected period of his life.

Fairbanks sent photographs and sketches of the proposed monument to the committee in Hawaii. They were pleased with the plans. He then made a four-foot-tall model cast. Again it met with committee enthusiasm. With that approval, he began the heroic, nine-foot-tall statue. He preferred the heroic size—one-and-a-half scale—because life-size figures on a pedestal appeared too small. Fairbanks began

3. Tom Starr, president of the Detroit group and a Lincoln scholar, became a volunteer consultant and a valuable source of research information. Other investigation was done at the Albert H. Greenly Lincoln collection of the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan. Several museums were visited for additional details. Original copies of the Volk life mask and hand casts were carefully measured and studied. A special rail-splitter's ax head—broad and shaped like a wedge—was studied and included in the composition

using an abandoned auditorium in one of the oldest campus buildings at the University of Michigan as a studio. The beams were calculated to be able to support the weight of armature, clay, plaster of the cast, and of the mold. Work progressed after classes, evenings, and on weekends. The final model was completed in June 1941 and went on display during the week of university commencement exercises and alumni sessions. A visiting member of the Hawaiian committee gave final approval, and casting in plaster began within days. Newspaper publicity of the project brought national attention. A critic declared that Fairbanks had "put America in Abraham Lincoln as few other artists have ever done." Fairbanks made him "powerful, alert, aggressive," and with eyes through which Lincoln visualized far ahead to the blessings of "a free and united nation."

The making of the mold and the cast took a large part of the summer. Finally, the cast was complete but in sections. It was boxed and sent to the Roman Bronze company, a foundry in Corona, New York. World War II was raging in Europe, and there was concern that restrictions on non-military uses of copper, a major ingredient of bronze, would stall the project. But late that year the statue was cast before restrictions were placed. Delivery of the statue to Hawaii was delayed by the Pearl Harbor attack, as only high-priority cargo was allowed to be shipped. It was not sent until 1943. The heroic bronze monument was erected on a base of rainbow granite, and the dedication was arranged for February 12, 1944, the 135th anniversary of Lincoln's birth (Figure 1). It was an important day for the Ewa school, the city of Ewa, and the island of Oahu.<sup>4</sup>

The Ewa school is justly proud of its Lincoln statue. It has often received favorable public attention. A February 12 tradition at the school is a patriotic celebration during which fragrant, flowery leis are placed over the Lincoln monument's shoulders to express of the spirit of Aloha. The spirit of *Lincoln the Frontiersman* continues to permeate the school and islands.

**Lincoln Statue for New Salem, Lincoln's New Salem State  
Historic Site, Petersburg, Illinois. Dedicated June 21, 1954**

Following World War II the University of Utah was expanding, and officials invited Dr. Fairbanks to become the first dean of the College

4. Participants in the ceremonies included the Royal Hawaiian Band, the Hawaiian superintendent of public instruction, the governor of Hawaii, the executor of Katherine Burke's estate, the manager of Ewa Plantations, sculptor Fairbanks, the student body, and the school chorus.





Figure 1. *Lincoln the Frontiersman* at Ewa Plantation school, Ewa, Hawaii.

of Fine Arts. As dean he initiated a comprehensive program of art studies, including graphics, painting, sculpture, art anatomy, art history, music, dance, and industrial applications. He deferred his own creative endeavors for several years while attending to administrative duties. An opportunity developed when the Sons of the Utah Pioneers,





Fairbanks A. - Hanson (1991)

1990-1991

500-1000 - F

